

DECISION NOTICE
BUCKALLEW SHOOTING PRESERVE EXPANSION
PREPARED BY MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
June 23, 2000

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to add an additional 800 acres to the existing 450-acre shooting preserve. This action evaluated the entire 1250 acres to permit the establishment of the business. The business proposes to continue the shooting of pheasants, chukar partridge, quail and Hungarian partridge by customers and the owner. The benefit is primarily financial and recreational for the applicant with minor financial benefits for the community.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

The proposal was outlined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by FWP in compliance the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts to the human and natural environment. The EA was available for public comment from May 25 through June 9, 2000. The document was sent to state and local government entities, local legislators, sportsperson's groups and individuals who have expressed interest in shooting preserves.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Checklist EA listed the issues. No major impacts are known to occur if the permit is issued.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One written comment was received during the comment period. That comment was from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):

COMMENT: Due to the lack of previous inventory in the area of the expansion, and sites known to exist in nearby areas, a reconnaissance survey should be conducted to determine the existence of such sites and the degree to which any that may be found would be impacted.

RESPONSE: The expansion will not cause any new disturbance to ground within the proposed expansion. No new fencing will take place and the only use for the area will be the release and hunting of game birds.

DECISION

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which address concerns and issues identified for this proposed shooting preserve. Based on the findings of the EA that established no significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the expansion of the Buckallew Shooting Preserve. A permit will be issued upon completion of requisite activities (signing, etc.) and final facility inspection by FWP personnel (87-4-501 MCA, 87-4-502 MCA.)



Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator
Helena, MT 59620
June 23, 2000

Flathead